

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 and 16-20 are currently pending.

In the present Response, claims 1-3 and 16-20 are being amended. Claims 4-8, withdrawn from consideration in Paper No. 9 filed June 28, 2000, have been added by permission from the Examiner.

Pursuant to the present Office Action, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,843,767 to Beattie (hereinafter "Beattie"). Claims 1-3 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,040,193 to Winkler *et al.*, (hereinafter "Winkler"). Claims 16, 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beattie. Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Winkler.

Support for added claims 4-8 is found in the specification, in general, and originally filed claims 4-8. Applicants have also amended the specification as set forth herein to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendments.

Status of the Application

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in the pending application. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing Applicants to add previously withdrawn claims 4-8 in a telephonic conversation on May 9, 2001. As claims 1-3 and 16-20 have been cancelled in the present Response, the rejections set forth in the Office Action are moot.

Accompanying the RCE and Response is a Submission Accompanying the RCE in which claim amendments are presented. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of those amendments and respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would

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expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicants have included a Petition for a One-month Extension of Time for Response, up to and including May 10, 2001, and the appropriate fee. Applicants believe no additional fees are necessitated by the present Response. However, in the event any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/10/01


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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21 has been amended as follows:

The problem underlying the present invention is also solved by a pin used for spotting a probe on a plate, wherein a tip of the pin [tip] comprises at least a recess.

Paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 has been amended as follows:

In one embodiment of the inventive pin, the recess is of a concave shape [shap].

Paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9 has been amended as follows:

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, in the claims and/or in the accompanying drawings may, both separately and in any combination thereof, be material for realizing [realizing] the invention in diverse [divers] forms thereof.

In the claims:

Claims 1-3 and 16-20 have been cancelled.